

# COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

A number of students in Years 10/11 have expressed an interest in enrolling for the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award. The purpose of this letter is to explain what's involved in the scheme, and how we plan to start the enrolment process.

The award requires students to complete independent activities in a number of areas; Volunteering, Physical and a Skill, for a certain length of time. They also undertake a self-sufficient expedition (3 days and 2 nights for Silver). It is also possible to begin the Silver Award as a 'direct' entrant, not having completed the Bronze award. It takes between 6 - 12 months to complete the Silver Award, depending if you have completed Bronze already.

The award requires considerable personal commitment, both by students and by the small number of parent volunteers who provide the specialist training and supervision required for the expeditions at these levels. We therefore want to ensure that we only accept students who have high personal motivation, and who have thought about the different elements of the award in advance. As parents, you will also need to be prepared to support (but not lead, persuade or compel!) your son/daughter in undertaking their activities, and by ensuring they are available for expedition training sessions, the practice expedition and the qualifying expedition itself.

As places are limited, we select students by asking them to complete a programme planner and a participant enrolment form. If selected, we expect students to have undertaken a substantial part of their Volunteering, Physical and Skill before they begin the expedition training by the deadline next spring, and to have improved their fitness levels in preparation for the expeditions.

There is a lot of useful and detailed information available on the school's website (clubs & activities – DofE Award Scheme), and on the award website (<http://www.dofe.org/>) to help them consider whether to enrol. I am also regularly available in school, or the students can leave a message for me, or email me at any time.

All applications and enrolment forms must be sent electronically to [SBirchmore@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk](mailto:SBirchmore@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk).

With best wishes,

**Sophie Birchmore**

Silver and Gold DofE Award Leader, Teacher

**Matt Porter**

Silver DofE Expedition Supervisor, Parent Volunteer